

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 5, 2009

Speaker Nancy Pelosi
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Majority Leader Steny Hoyer
H-107, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader Hoyer:

We have always believed that transparency and openness are essential to a fair and working government. Our job as Members of Congress is to represent the people of our districts and cast our votes with their best interests in mind. A transparent and open government invites the public into the policy debates happening in Washington, helping elected officials make good decisions on behalf of their constituents.

We applaud the leadership you have shown in bringing transparency back to this chamber since Democrats were elected to the majority in 2006. Your efforts have helped legislators make informed and wise decisions, and have brought ordinary Americans back into the public debate over important issues.

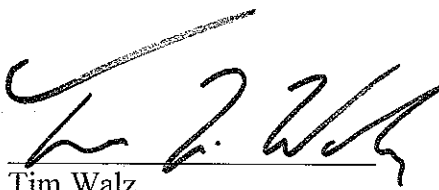
To do our jobs successfully, Members must be able to review legislation carefully so that we fully understand each bill's meaning and impact. Additionally, we need sufficient time to communicate with our constituents effectively, ensuring that we understand their perspective on the bills we consider.

Rep. Brian Baird has put forward a proposal, H. Res 554, which would prohibit the House from considering legislation that has not been made publicly available, via the Internet, to Members of the Congress and the general public for at least 72 hours.

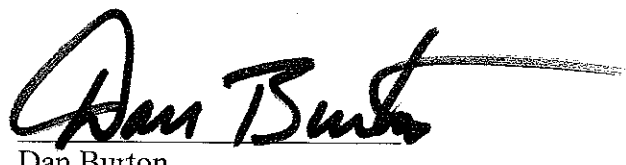
We strongly agree with the intent of this proposal. Already the rules of the House require such a period of time be made available to Members for review of legislation and the drafting of amendments. Therefore, we ask that the Leadership of the House strive to meet this established standard with all major legislation, with only the rarest and most necessary of exceptions.

Thank you for your continued commitment to openness and transparency in Congress.

Sincerely,



Tim Walz
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



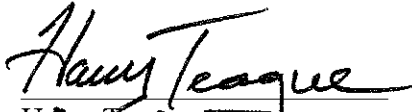
Dan Burton
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



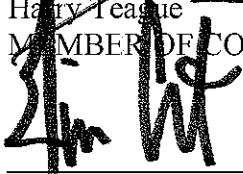
Dennis Moore
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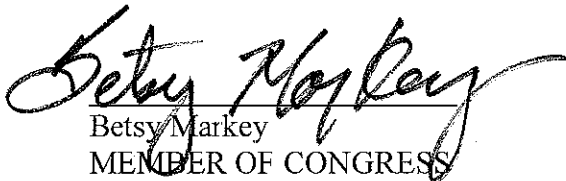
Tom Perriello
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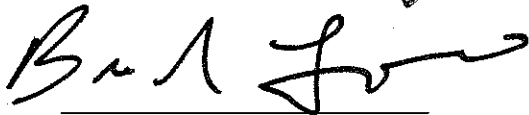
Harry Teague
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Jim Costa
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Betsy Markey
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Ben Lujan
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Scott Murphy
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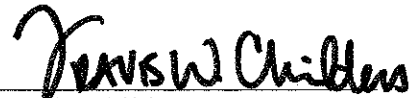
Dina Titus
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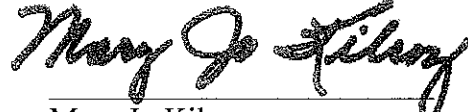
Frank Kratovil
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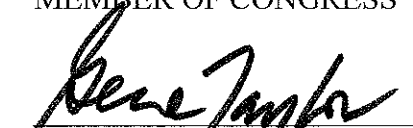
Larry Kissell
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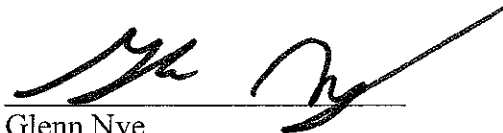
Travis Childers
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Mary Jo Kilroy
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Gene Taylor
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



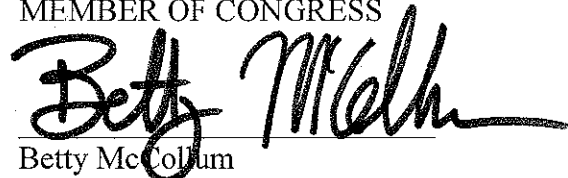
Glenn Nye
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Parker Griffith
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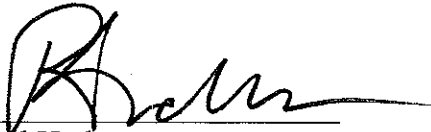
Gary Peters
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



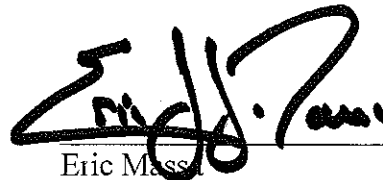
Betty McCollum
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Zach Space
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Paul Hodes
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Eric Mass
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Mike Quigley
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